

Rep. Slaughter has been an avid supporter of the Stem Cell Research. She was an original cosponsor of HR 3, which passed the House on January 11th by a vote of 253-174. She also voted in favor of S 5, which passed the House on June 7th by a vote of 247-176. She has managed the rules in support of allowing consideration of this legislation and has spoken on the House Floor numerous times in support of this research.

Over 100 million Americans suffer from cancer, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, diabetes, spinal cord injuries and other debilitating diseases and disorders for which embryonic stem cell research holds great promise in finding new and better treatments and cures. Expanding stem cell research has strong bipartisan support in Congress, and is supported by over 72 percent of Americans.

The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act increases the number of embryonic stem cell lines eligible to be used for federally-funded research. The bill authorizes HHS to support research involving embryonic stem cells meeting certain criteria, regardless of the date on which the stem cells were derived from an embryo. The bill lays out strict ethical guidelines, which allow federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. In order to acquire funding the following must be met:

- Embryos used to develop stem cells must be originally created for fertility treatment and are in excess of treatment needs;
- An embryo may only be used for stem cell research if the donors give their written consent.
- The individuals seeking fertility treatments must have "donated the embryos with written informed consent and without receiving any financial or other inducements to make the donation.